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Vietnamese gunship deployment

By Jim Wolf in Bangkok

VIETNAM HAS BEGUN deploying helicopter gunships against Kampuchean guerrillas for the first time since Hanoi-led troops entered Kampuchea six years ago, according to Thai Intelligence reports.

Prasong Soonsiri, Secretary General of the Thai National Security Council, told *JDW* that Vietnamese forces called in six MIL Mi-24 Hind helicopters in November for support south-west of the Great Tonle Sap Lake. Earlier, the gunships reportedly had been moved to Ho Chi Minh City. Mr Prasong said they were subsequently sent back to southern Vietnam.

According to Thai Intelligence reports, the Vietnamese recently expanded facilities at Battambang air field, western Kampuchea, said by the Thais to be the landing strip for An-26 Curl transport flights carrying troops from Vietnam.

Western sources said China was now supplying forces of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, the main non-Communist guerrilla group, with 12.7 mm anti-aircraft guns, in addition to 82 mm mortars, 75 mm recoilless rifles and heavy

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